

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 18, 1848.

Submitted and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MASON made the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. No. 223.]

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the "memorial of John M. McIntosh, praying the settlement of the accounts of John Clute and Jacob Hart on duplicate certificates, the originals being lost, and that the amounts found due may be paid to him as their assignee," have had the same under consideration and respectfully report:

That the memorialist is the assignee of two accounts, one in favor of John Clutes, as a teamster, for services at Fort Macomb, Florida, amounting to \$82, and the other in favor of Jacob Hart, for similar services and a similar amount, which accounts were regularly certified by Lieutenant and Acting Assistant Quartermaster Alexander Waugh of the United States army. That said accounts were stolen from the memorialist on the 7th of April, 1840, and that, notwithstanding every effort on his part to recover them, nothing has been heard of them at the departments or elsewhere. The memorialist now prays that the accounting officers be authorized to pay the above named accounts upon duplicate certificates and that the original accounts be cancelled.

Your committee, after due examination, are of opinion that the prayer of the memorialist is just and should be granted; because, in the first place, the certificate of Lieutenant and Acting Assistant Quartermaster Waugh, who gave the original certificates, proves that the accounts now presented are true copies and for the amounts respectively due.

In the second place, because there is reasonable evidence that the original accounts were lost, and that, from the length of time that has elapsed, eight years, there arises a fair presumption that they have been destroyed.

The Committee, therefore, recommend the passage of the accompanying bill.

